

Trustees stand pat on cuts at Cabrillo

Nearly 80 past and present Cabrillo College students and teachers packed Monday afternoon's governing board meeting on behalf of several programs and teachers scheduled to be dropped next fall.

The pleas were articulate, polite and heartfelt, but in the end nothing changed. College president John Petersen said he could not recommend restoring any of the programs ordered cut in January when the board excised \$1.2 million from next year's budget.

Stacks of petitions were delivered to Petersen to save drama instructor Wilma Marcus' job and to save the entire Construction and Drafting Technology departments. During oral communications, speakers from the audience detailed their personal experiences and high regard for the Early Childhood Education program. Others said the drama program will be as good as gone without Ms. Marcus. Still others asked for a chance to keep at least part of the construction and drafting programs to save something on which to build should money become available in future years.

"Don't write off the construction industry in Santa Cruz. There's a lot of building to be done," Bruce Van Allen, a cabinetmaker and the mayor of Santa Cruz, told the governing board. Van Allen was referring to one of Petersen's main reasons for recommending that the program be cut, that the job market in construction was weak.

Joe Cardone, representing the Budget Action Group, a student group seeking alternatives to the

cuts, said the economy and housing starts are on the way up and interest rates are falling, and therefore the program should be continued.

John Pollard, a construction tech teacher who is retiring at the end of the year, said to the chuckles of the audience that the board should keep the gold watch it is "probably thinking of giving" him and retain the programs instead.

Katrin Reimuller, the student representative on the board, made a motion to bring the construction and drafting department heads together with Petersen and other college officials to seek a way to keep at least some part of the programs. The motion failed because most trustees did not wish to single out one program for attention when many are affected.

Trustee Ted Foster cast the only vote for Miss Reimuller's motion (student reps cannot vote), saying construction tech was different from the others because it will be eliminated entirely. George Couch and Harry Hooper abstained.

Later in the meeting the board voted unanimously to send out the official notices to the teachers who will be laid off.

On another item, Gene Wright, the administrative dean and liaison to the athletic department, gave the board a detailed report by athletic director Dale Murray showing how individual sports are funded and what they cost. The department will offer seven fewer competitive sports next fall as a result of budget cuts.

Murray's report states that the cuts will save the college \$25,842. He proposed altering the programs so the department could still offer the sports while saving the same amount of money.

Murray's report was delivered for the board's information only. No action was taken, but it is possible some of the sports programs could be saved at future meetings if the board goes along with Murray's proposals.